

CSEPP Policy Paper Number 20

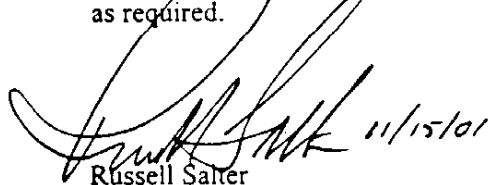
ADOPTION OF INTERIM ACUTE EXPOSURE GUIDELINE LEVELS (AEGLs)

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of the Army (Army) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) signed October 8, 1997, the Army is responsible for providing expertise, training and technical assistance for emergency medical response to chemical agent accidents/incidents at the chemical stockpile sites. An important part of the medical planning and response is the establishment of acute exposure levels.

Effective November 15, 2001, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) adopts the interim Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs) as published in the Federal Register¹ for chemical warfare agents. The AEGLs represent threshold exposure limits for the general public that are consistent with exposure limits for other hazardous materials. The interim AEGL values are applicable to the general public—including infants, children and sensitive or susceptible members of the population. All CSEPP-funded states, counties, Army installations and other organizations at the eight chemical weapon stockpile sites within the continental United States will use the AEGLs for chemical agent emergency planning and response activities. The Army, in coordination with FEMA, will assist CSEPP States in incorporating AEGLs into their emergency planning and response activities. Each State should be fully prepared to execute CSEPP planning and response using AEGLs by November 15, 2002. States requiring additional time should notify FEMA in writing and request an extension.

Since 1996, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Advisory Committee for Hazardous Substances for Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs) has developed AEGLs for many hazardous substances, including chemical agents. AEGLs provide a consistent basis for planning and response to all hazardous substances. They also incorporate concern for exposure of sensitive populations to hazardous substances. Therefore, the use of AEGLs for chemical agents will be consistent with planning and response guidelines for other hazardous substances.

The EPA-developed AEGLs are currently under review by the National Academy of Sciences/ National Research Council. Once the NRC has completed the review and published final AEGL values, the CSEPP will review all final values and incorporate changes or additions to this policy as required.



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¹ For mustard, March 15, 2000 *Federal Register*. 65 FR 14185-14197
For nerve agents, May 2, 2001 *Federal Register*. 66 FR 21940-21964.